

Message Text

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ORIGIN AF-06

INFO OCT-01 EUR-12 ISO-00 CIAE-00 DODE-00 NSAE-00 NSCE-00

SSO-00 USIE-00 INRE-00 PM-03 H-01 INR-07 L-02 NSC-05

PA-01 PRS-01 SP-02 SS-15 MC-02 COME-00 EB-07 TRSE-00

AID-05 IGA-01 /071 R

DRAFTED BY AF/W:WGRAMSAY:IW

APPROVED BY AF:EWMULCAHY

AF/W:JLLOUGHRAN

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O 252308Z FEB 75

FM SECSTATE WASHDC

TO AMEMBASSY OUAGADOUGOU IMMEDIATE

INFO AMEMBASSY BAMAKO IMMEDIATE

AMEMBASSY ABIDJAN

AMEMBASSY CONAKRY

AMEMBASSY DAKAR

AMEMBASSY LONDON

AMEMBASSY LOME

AMEMBASSY NIAMEY

AMEMBASSY PARIS

AMEMBASSY BONN

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E.O. 11652: N/A

TAGS: PBOR, MILI, ML, UV

SUBJECT: VOLTAN ARMS REQUEST

1. DURING CALL BY UPPER VOLTA AMBASSADOR YAGUIBOU FEB. 25
TO DISCUSS UNRELATED MATTER, ACTING ASST SECY MULCAHY
DELIVERED TO AMBASSADOR USG RESPONSE TO OUTSTANDING VOLTAN
REQUEST FOR EXPORT LICENSES TO COVER ARMS PURCHASES.

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2. MULCAHY SAID LONG AND MOST CAREFUL CONSIDERATION GIVEN GOUV'S REQUEST; IT HIS SAD DUTY TO INFORM AMBASSADOR USG DECISION MUST BE IN NEGATIVE. WHILE WE ATTACH GREAT VALUE TO OUR FRIENDLY RELATIONS WITH UPPER VOLTA, WE HAD TO BEAR IN MIND THAT GOUV'S REQUEST WAS MADE FOLLOWING OUTBREAK OF BORDER DISPUTE AND HAS HAD TO BE CONSIDERED IN CONTEXT OF CURRENT EFFORTS OF SEVERAL AFRICAN GOVERNMENTS TO MEDIATE AND BRING ABOUT PEACEFUL SOLUTION. ADDED WE HAD RECEIVED MORE OR LESS SIMILAR REQUEST FROM MALI; ONLY DAY BEFORE MALIAN MINISTER DEFENSE HAD ASKED FOR SEVERAL THINGS. AT LEAST UNTIL END OF DELIBERATIONS BY LOME COMMISSION, OUR RESPONSE TO REQUESTS FROM EITHER SIDE MUST BE NEGATIVE.

3. YAGUIBOU SAID THAT GOUV WOULD NOT UNDERSTAND THIS DECISION AND THAT IT WOULD BRING ABOUT VERY GRAVE DETERIORATION IN OUR BILATERAL RELATIONS. HE DREW DISTINCTION BETWEEN POSITIVE AND NEGATIVE NEUTRALITY AND ARGUED AT LENGTH THAT OUR DECISION FELL IN LATTER CATEGORY, I.E., "THE DECISION GOES AGAINST UPPER VOLTA." ALSO COMPLAINED DECISION MADE IN ISOLATION AND REFLECTED USG'S "CAVALIER SOLITUDE." AGAIN CLAIMED VOLTANS ACQUIRING ARMS IN UK, FRANCE, ITALY, WEST GERMANY AND SPAIN.

4. MULCAHY REITERATED THAT OUR PROBLEM WITH VOLTAN REQUEST WAS ONE OF TIMING AND FACT BORDER PROBLEM HAD BEEN IN EFFECT INTERNATIONALIZED AS CONSEQUENCE ESTABLISHMENT QUADRIpartite COMMISSION. IN OTHER AND MORE FAVORABLE CIRCUMSTANCES, OUTCOME MIGHT HAVE BEEN ENTIRELY DIFFERENT.

5. YAGUIBOU SAID OUR DECISION WOULD ENCOURAGE CRITICISM OF HIM AS AN INEFFECTUAL AMBASSADOR AND INDICATED HIS TENURE IN WASHINGTON IS VERY UNCERTAIN. ON DEPARTING, HE ACCEPTED AIDE MEMOIRE.

6. ENGLISH AND FRENCH TEXTS OF AIDE MEMOIRE BEING TRANSMITTED BY SEPTELS. KISSINGER

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